schools affiliated to the Council shall charge fees that are commensurate with the facilities provided and shall not insist on 'donations'.

(b) The schools affiliated with the CBSE are also required to pay salary to the teachers which should not be less than the corresponding categories of employees working in the State Government schools. Complaints received about such irregularities are dealt with as per the provisions of the Affiliation Bye-laws of the Board. The CISCE has informed us that no such complaint has been received by the Council.

(c) Provisions have been made in the Affliation Bye-Laws of the CBSE to check such malpractices. However, allegations of 'donations' & other malpractices are reported from time to time. Instructions are issued on a regular basis to public schools on these issues. Action is taken on the basis of substantive evidence provided. Such action includes disaffiliation of the school, withholding the extension of provisional affiliation/upgradation of the school. A total of 11 schools were disaffiliated for these reasons and 4 were downgraded during the last two years. The CISCE has stated that a school, namely the St. Gregorios High School, Gregorios Nagar, Near Diamond Garden, Sion Trombay Road, Chembur, Mumbai-400 071, was reported in the press/media charging donation and necessary action was taken against the school authorities. The school has been warned against the practice.

WRITTEN ANSERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Subsidy to fishing vessels

161. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has scheme to extend diesel oil subsidy to fishing vessels engaged in export of marine products;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) how much money has been released by MPEDA in 2003-04 under this scheme;

(d) the estimates for 2004-05; and

(e) the steps taken to assist the fishing vessel owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Marine Products Export Development Authority has been assisting the fishing vessel owners by providing subsidy for installation of fish finders, Global Positioning System (GPS), fish hold, etc. in mechanised fishing vessels; training of fishermen on the use of fish finders, GPS, etc.; installation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) on board fishing vessels; supply of insulated fish boxes to fishermen; etc.

Subsidies for export of grains

162.SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to State:

(a) the facilities and subsidies provided to private traders to export grains;

(b) whether traders are demanding more subsidies; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per the extant EXIM Policy, export of wheat and rice is free. Some of the provisions to boost the export of foodgrains (wheat and rice) include publicity compaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International Trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial asistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursing certain WTO admissible costs on account of marketing and transport.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the stoppage of release of wheat and non-basmati rice from FCI at concessional rates since 11th August, 2003, exporters have been demanding continuation of the facility. A New foodgrain export policy is currently at an advanced stage of consideration in Government.

Support price for tobacco

163. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh have sought support price in view of low prices of tobacco in the market; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. the price of